AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 6 and 11-20. Please amend claims 1, 2, 7 and 8, and add claims 21 and 22 as indicated in the complete listing of claims given below:

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~adding metal to~~ fabricating a bulk aluminum-doped fused silica glass article, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a silicon-containing gas stream capable of being converted through thermal decomposition with oxidation or flame hydrolysis to silica;

flowing a second gas stream over a powdered, organometallic aluminum-containing precursor and sublimating the precursor to saturate the gas with the organometallic aluminum-containing precursor and to provide ~~a metal~~ an aluminum dopant-containing gas stream;

mixing the silicon-containing gas stream and the ~~metal~~ aluminum dopant-containing gas stream;

flowing the mixed gas streams into the flame of a combustion burner to form amorphous particles of ~~metal~~ aluminum doped fused silica;

depositing the amorphous particles onto a support; ~~and~~

consolidating the deposit of amorphous particles into a transparent glass body containing ~~less than~~ between 100 parts per billion and 100 parts per million of ~~the metal~~ aluminum and having an internal transmittance of greater than 99.5%/cm at a wavelength of 193 nm.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of heating the second gas stream to a first temperature, heating the precursor to a second temperature to sublimate the precursor, and maintaining the temperature of the saturated, ~~metal~~ aluminum dopant-containing gas stream at a third temperature.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the precursor is an organometallic chelate.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the precursor is a nonhydrolyzable organometallic chelate.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein the organometallic chelate includes aluminum acetylacetonate.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein aluminum is ~~metal-doped into~~ present in the fused silica optical member in a concentration between ~~50~~ 100 ppb and 900 ppb.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first temperature is between 100° C to 160° C, the second temperature is between 0° C and 10° C below the first temperature, and the third temperature is greater than 175° C.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of cooling the consolidated glass body from a temperature of greater than 1800° C to a temperature less than 1200° C over a time period greater than four hours.

11-20. (canceled)

21. (new claim) A method of fabricating an apparatus comprising the steps of:

performing the method of claim 1 to provide a bulk aluminum-doped fused silica glass article; and

providing a source of high-power ultraviolet light; and

arranging the silica glass article and source of high-power ultraviolet light so that the silica glass article is exposed to high-power ultraviolet light from the source.

22. (new claim) The method of claim 21 wherein the silica glass article has a concentration of aluminum between 100 ppb and 900 ppb.

23. (new claim) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of performing the method of claim 1 includes the step of cooling the consolidated glass body from a

temperature of greater than 1800° C to a temperature less than 1200° C over a time period greater than four hours.